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CALIFORNIA BRANCH OF THE AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society was founded August 18, 1905, at a meeting of the Berkeley Folk-Lore Club, a more informal and restricted organization than the California Branch, but with similar aims, by the adoption of the following report : —

The Committee appointed May 3, 1905, on vote of the charter members of the Berkeley Folk-Lore Club to report on the feasibility of the establishment of a California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society, beg leave to submit the following recommendations :

“ That the formation of the Berkeley Folk-Lore Club provides an opportune basis for the establishment and successful development of a California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society, which will extend the work undertaken by the Berkeley Folk-Lore Club to a wider sphere of influence and bring it before a larger body of persons, thus enhancing the promotion of folk-lore interests on the Pacific coast. Be it resolved therefore,

“ That a California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society be hereby organized by such of those present as signify their willingness ; and

“ That a committee of five be appointed to arrange for a meeting, including a programme, in Berkeley, on the evening of August 28 ; said committee to submit at this meeting a formal draft of organization, with nominations for officers, for the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society.”

This report having been adopted and a California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society having been thereby founded by those present and signifying their assent, the following committee was appointed by the Chair, to report, as provided, at the meeting on August 28 : J. C. Merriam, G. R. Noyes, Charles Keeler, W. C. Mitchell, and A. L. Kroeber.

All persons interested in folk-lore are eligible to membership in the American Folk-Lore Society and its California Branch, and those desiring to become members are particularly invited to be present at this meeting and make themselves known to the committee or to the officers to be elected. Membership in the California Branch will include membership in the American Folk-Lore Society, and will bring with it the receipt of the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*, a quarterly periodical published by the Society.

The work of the California Branch is designed to be directed to the study of the many elements of folk-lore existing in California among

its Indian, Spanish, American, and Asiatic populations, and to the awakening of interest in such studies, by the institution of public lectures, meetings devoted to discussions and comparisons, systematic researches leading to the publication of new information, and the ultimate formation of branch or affiliated societies in various parts of the Pacific coast. The work that is thus planned is connected so intimately with the history of California, and will be so illustrative in a wider sense of the development of the State, that the furtherance of this work should be of general interest; and it is hoped that many persons not directly or individually identified with the study of folk-lore will ally themselves with the Branch from a desire to aid in the furtherance of all knowledge relating to California.

FIRST MEETING.

A public meeting of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society was held Monday, August 28, at 8 P. M., in the Philosophy Building of the University of California in Berkeley.

Professor J. C. Merriam, chairman of the Committee appointed to arrange for the meeting and to submit a formal draft of organization, called the meeting to order and explained its purpose. Nominations for temporary presiding officer having been called for, Professor W. E. Ritter was nominated and elected. Professor Ritter, on taking the chair, thanked those present and spoke of the opportunities and desirability of folk-lore work in California.

Professor Merriam then presented the report of the Committee on organization.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

The Committee appointed August 18 at the founding of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society to submit at the meeting August 28 a formal draft of organization beg leave to report the following

BY-LAWS.

I. This Society shall be called the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society. Its object shall be the advancement and diffusion of the study of folk-lore in all its aspects.

II. The officers shall be a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six Councillors. These officers shall constitute a Council which shall transact all business of the Branch.

III. The officers shall be elected at the first meeting held after July first of each year, and shall remain in office until their successors are elected.

IV. There shall be at least four meetings annually. The time,

place, programme, and manner of all meetings shall be determined by the Council.

V. Any one interested in folk-lore may become a member of the Branch by vote of the Council and approval of the members in meeting, and on payment annually of three dollars. The dues of members shall be transmitted by the Treasurer to the Treasurer of the American Folk-Lore Society, provided such arrangements are made by the Council of the American Folk-Lore Society as will enable the California Branch to carry on successfully its work and the development of the folk-lore interests of California.

VI. These by-laws may be amended by a vote of two thirds of the members at any meeting, provided the amendments have previously been approved by a majority of the Council.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS.

President, Professor F. W. Putnam, University of California.

First Vice-President, Charles Keeler, Berkeley.

Second Vice-President, Professor John Fryer, University of California.

Treasurer, Professor W. F. Bade, Pacific Theological Seminary.

Secretary, Dr. A. L. Kroeber, University of California.

Councillors, Charles F. Lummis, Los Angeles; Professor W. C. Mitchell, University of California; Mrs. Thos. B. Bishop, San Francisco.

On account of accessions in membership likely to occur in the near future, the Committee recommends that only three Councillors be chosen at this meeting, the remaining three provided for in the by-laws to be elected at a future meeting.

J. C. MERRIAM, *for the Com.*

This report having been read, it was moved that it be adopted, the proposed draft of organization thereby becoming the by-laws of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society. The motion was seconded, put by the chair, and carried.

It was moved that the officers nominated by the Committee be declared elected as officers of the Society for 1905-06. This motion, having been seconded and put by the chair, was carried.

Professor F. W. Putnam of the University of California and of Harvard University, the President elect, thereupon took the chair. After thanking the Society, Professor Putnam explained the purposes of the American Folk-Lore Society and its branches and gave a review of their history and the work being done by them. He then spoke of the particular field of the California Branch, its opportunities, and their urgency.

Professor Putnam thereupon introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the U. S. Biological Survey of Washington, D. C., who gave an informal lecture on Aboriginal Folk-Lore from California, treating particularly of the beliefs of the Indians of the Mono region, the San Joaquin Valley, and the area north of San Francisco bay, and enlarging generally upon the problems of folk-lore investigation among the Indians of all parts of California.

At the conclusion of Dr. Merriam's lecture, Professor Putnam, as President of the Boston Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society, Dr. R. B. Dixon of Harvard University, as President of the Cambridge Branch, and Dr. Charles Peabody of the Archæological Museum of Andover, Massachusetts, addressed the Society.

A motion was made and carried that the second meeting of the Society be held in Berkeley on August 31, in conjunction with the American Anthropological Association.

On motion the Secretary was instructed to receive the signatures of those present wishing to become members of the Society.

The meeting was adjourned.

Two hundred persons attended the meeting.

A. L. KROEBER, *Secretary.*

The following persons signed the roll of membership at the conclusion of the meeting : —

F. W. Putnam, University of California.	F. B. Dresslar, Berkeley.
C. Hart Merriam, Washington, D. C.	Mrs. Ralph C. Harrison, San Francisco.
Wm. E. Ritter, University of California.	Mrs. Alice G. Whitbeck, Berkeley.
Charles Keeler Berkeley.	W. H. Ratcliff, Berkeley.
Mrs. Thos. B. Bishop, San Francisco.	Mrs. J. B. Havre, Berkeley.
William Frederic Bade, Berkeley.	Albert H. Allen, University of California.
Harriet Bundick Sherkley, Oakland.	Wm. A. Brewer, San Mateo.
H. A. Overstreet, Berkeley.	Mrs. Willietta Brown, San Francisco.
Mrs. Mary Dickson, Alameda.	Miss Grace Nicholson, Pasadena.
Mrs. William James Monro, Berkeley.	S. A. Barrett, Berkeley.

This number was subsequently increased by the following : —

Dr. R. B. Dixon, Cambridge, Mass.	Dr. A. L. Kroeber, San Francisco.
Mr. Chas. F. Lummis, Los Angeles.	Mrs. R. F. Herrick, Eureka.
Prof. W. A. Setchell, Berkeley.	Miss J. E. Wier, Reno, Nevada.
Prof. G. R. Noyes, Berkeley.	Mrs. M. O. Schueler, Berkeley.
Prof. John Fryer, Berkeley.	Mrs. K. B. Miller, Berkeley.
Prof. W. C. Mitchell, Berkeley.	Miss McElroy, Oakland.

Making a total membership of thirty-four.

SECOND MEETING.

The second meeting of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society was held at the University of California in Berkeley, August 31, in conjunction with the American Anthropological Association, Professor F. W. Putnam, President of both societies, in the chair. The societies met in South Hall at 10 A. M. and in the lecture room of the Department of Anthropology at 2 P. M. Papers dealing with anthropology, folk-lore, and kindred subjects were read, among them the following specifically relating to folk-lore:—

Mr. Charles Keeler of Berkeley: *Creation Myths and Folk-Tales of the Manua Islands, Samoa.*

Mr. S. A. Barrett of Berkeley: *Basket Designs of the Pomo Indians.*

Dr. C. Hart Merriam of Washington, D. C.: *Basket Cave Burial in California.*

Mr. C. C. Willoughby of Cambridge, Mass.: *Specimens in the Peabody Museum collected by the Lewis and Clark Expedition.*

Dr. C. F. Newcombe of Victoria, British Columbia: *Exhibition of Northwestern Indian Designs.*

Mr. J. T. Goodman of Alameda: *Maya Dates.*

And others by title.

The meeting was adjourned at 4.30 P. M.

One hundred persons attended the meeting.

A. L. KROEBER, *Secretary.*

COUNCIL MEETING.

A meeting of the Council of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society was held in the office of the Department of Anthropology of the University of California in Berkeley at 4.30 P. M., October 3, 1905, Mr. Charles Keeler, first vice-president, in the chair.

Mr. Keeler read a letter from the Secretary.

It was voted:

To arrange if practicable a meeting in San Francisco in October.

To hold a meeting in Berkeley on Tuesday, November 14, the paper to be read by Professor Fryer on Chinese folk-lore.

To hold a meeting in Berkeley on Tuesday, December 5, the paper to be read by Dr. Bade on Hebrew folk-lore.

To intrust the detailed arrangements for these meetings to a committee consisting of the first vice-president and the secretary.

Professor John E. Matzke, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and Mr. E. J. Molera were nominated for membership in the Council.

The Secretary was authorized to have suitable letter-heads prepared for the use of the Society.

The Council adjourned at 5.30 P. M.

W. C. MITCHELL, *Secretary pro tempore*.

COUNCIL MEETING.

A meeting of the Council of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society was held at the Hotel St. Francis, San Francisco, Monday, October 30, 1905, at 7.45 P. M. The following persons were approved for membership: Mr. Harold S. Symmes, Idyllwild; Mrs. Bertody Wilder Stone, San Francisco; Professor John E. Matzke, Stanford University; Dr. P. E. Goddard, Berkeley; Mr. A. C. Vroman, Pasadena; Mr. C. E. Rumsey, Riverside; Miss Constance Goddard Du Bois, Waterbury, Conn.; Dr. Gustav Eisen, San Francisco; Miss Harriett Bartnett, New York; Mr. H. H. Bancroft, San Francisco; Mr. E. J. Molera, San Francisco; Mrs. Samuel Woolsey Backus, San Francisco; Mrs. John Flournoy, San Francisco.

The meeting was adjourned.

A. L. KROEBER, *Secretary*.

THIRD MEETING.

A Meeting of the California Branch of the American Folk-Lore Society devoted to a discussion of Japanese folk-lore was held at the Hotel St. Francis, Monday, October 30, 1905, at 8 P. M. Mr. Charles Keeler presided.

The minutes of the two preceding meetings were read and approved.

Thirteen persons approved by the Council were elected to membership in the Society, the Secretary being instructed to cast the vote of the Society for them. The persons thereby elected to membership were: Mr. Harold S. Symmes, Mrs. Bertody Wilder Stone, Professor John E. Matzke, Dr. P. E. Goddard, Mr. A. C. Vroman, Mr. C. E. Rumsey, Miss Constance Goddard Du Bois, Dr. Gustav Eisen, Miss Harriett Bartnett, Mr. H. H. Bancroft, Mr. E. J. Molera, Mrs. Samuel Woolsey Backus, and Mrs. John Flournoy.

A report from the Council was read nominating Professor John E. Matzke, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, and Mr. E. J. Molera to the three councillorships left vacant at the organization of the Society. On motion it was voted that the Secretary cast the ballot of the Society for the three nominees to the Council.

Meetings of the Society in Berkeley in November and December, and in San Francisco and Berkeley in January and subsequent months were announced by the President.

A statement was made by the Secretary in regard to the receipt

of the *Journal of American Folk-Lore* by members of the California Branch, and a brief description of the publications of the Society, including the series of *Memoirs*, was given.

The acting President, Mr. Keeler, addressed the Society and its friends on the meaning of the word "folk-lore," the opportunities of the Society, and the importance of its work. A prospectus issued by the Society, giving an account of its organization and aims, was placed at the disposal of members for distribution.

Mr. Eli T. Sheppard then read a paper on "Birds and Animals in Japanese Folk-Lore," giving a review of the principal qualities popularly attributed to animals by the Japanese, and the beliefs and tales connected with them. The speaker dwelt particularly on the firm hold of such beliefs on the Japanese mind and their great importance in illustrating the real and inner life and mental workings of the people.

Mr. Norwood B. Smith spoke on folk-lore elements in Japanese prints and wood-cuts, emphasizing the richness of lore in this field, of which only the artistic aspects have usually been considered.

Miss Mary Very pointed out the richness and significance of Japanese folk beliefs and customs, illustrating her remarks by the relation of personal experiences and the exhibition of specimens.

After a vote of thanks to the speakers of the evening, the Society adjourned to meet in Berkeley, November 14, to listen to a paper by Professor John Fryer on Chinese folk-lore.

Sixty persons attended the meeting.

A. L. KROEBER, *Secretary.*